

U.S. Customs and Border Protection Modernization

May 2004 Monthly Newsletter

Periodic Payment Pilot Test Launches in June

Approximately 225 U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) employees and more than 100 importers and brokers will begin a three-month pilot test of Automated Commercial Environment (ACE) periodic payment features next month.

The CBP test participants include employees from the National Finance Center (NFC), as well as import and entry specialists, account managers, and client representatives serving 34 of the initial 41 importer accounts and 17 of their designated brokers. Office of Strategic Trade International Trade Specialists and Regulatory Auditors, as well as the Office of Regulations and

Rulings, Field Analysis Specialists, and CBP Lab Directors will also participate.

The features being tested include the new monthly account statement and payment capabilities, as well as ledger integration, notifications, alerts, and other enhancements. Operational data will be used.

The NFC Revenue Branch Chief Robert Hamilton said the pilot test “will provide a better understanding of how the new features and capabilities will work.”

These new ACE features will be available to other ACE participants once the pilot test is satisfactorily completed.

Government Agencies Prepare for ACE/ITDS

With the addition of automated truck processing features coming this fall, the first participating government agency, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration of the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) will begin to have access to ACE data. Several other federal agencies have begun planning to integrate their operations into the ACE/International Trade Data System

Your Input Needed!

Are you getting all the information you need about ACE and Modernization?

To help us make sure you are getting the latest information on ACE and Modernization, please answer a short questionnaire that will be posted from May 1, 2004, to June 1, 2004, on the TPX mainframe and CBP Intranet. Simply logon to the CBP TPX mainframe system, select the Field Questionnaires Section on the main menu, and look for the Modernization Office Communication Questionnaire. Alternatively, look on the CBP Intranet homepage.

Your participation is essential to the success of the Modernization Program. All responses will remain strictly confidential. From your input, we will be able to determine the best way to provide information that helps you make the most of the Modernization effort.

ACE on the Road

May 5: Boston Customs Brokers Association, Boston, Mass.

May 11: BDP International Compliance Seminar, Philadelphia, Pa.

May 11-13: CBP Client Representatives Conference, Boston, Mass.

(ITDS) design, including the Federal Communications Commission, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Food and Drug Administration, U.S. International Trade Commission, Maritime Administration, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the Census Bureau. These agencies have completed concept of operations and requirements documents and are participating in activities to ensure their requirements are included in ACE/ITDS.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection Modernization Office (CBPMO)

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<http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/toolbox/about/modernization/>



ACE Ambassador Spotlight

Beverly Ingle remembers a time early in her 17-year CBP career when she manually had to fill out paperwork for every entry. Now she looks forward to advancements in ACE.

Ingle has seen every angle of the CBP entry equation. A graduate of Arizona State University, she started her career with Customs in Phoenix, as an entry specialist. Then she decided to see how the other half lived and left to work in the trade industry. She did Customs filing for an importer and then got a broker's license.

"Working as an importer and then as a broker gave me the opportunity to see every side of the process and it has helped me better understand the challenges each group faces," said Ingle.

After working three years in commercial trade, she came back to Customs. She has been at the Service Port of Nogales, the largest port in Arizona, for about five years.

In her current role as an Entry Branch Chief, Ingle says what she likes best about working for CBP is "learning something new every day. Importers, brokers, and my fellow CBP employees ask me questions. I look for the answers and teach them how to research."

Ingle thinks ACE will help both CBP employees and trade users find information faster. She especially likes the reports feature in ACE because "it provides information at your finger tips that would normally take days to find with data query with the labor intensive Automated Commercial System. ACE will provide both CBP and the trade community a good idea of how their shipments are doing in any point in time."

One of Ingle's goals as an ACE Ambassador is to help her peers make the transition to ACE by providing the latest program developments.

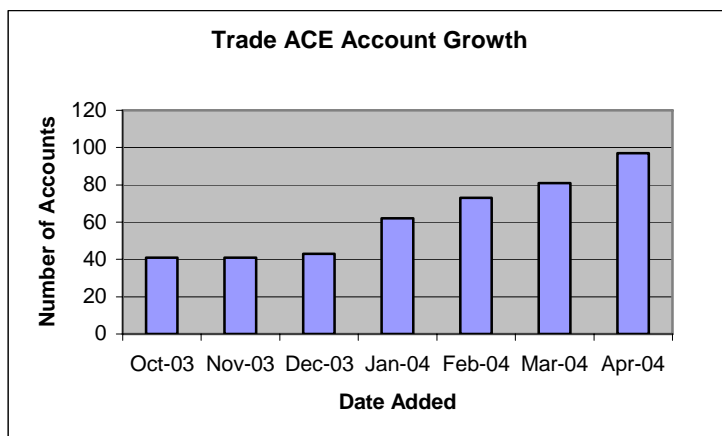
"We are pleased to see increasing levels of trade community and federal agency participation in ACE/ITDS development," said ITDS Board Chairman Gene Rosengarden. "The spirit of cooperation and contribution will help us realize a single window concept for the federal government."

In January 2004, ITDS Board Chairman Gene Rosengarden and CBPMO Business Executive Larry Rosenzweig began conducting ACE/ITDS executive outreach briefings to garner additional agency participation. To date, the executive outreach team has met with high-level representatives from several agencies within the DOT, the Department of Agriculture, Treasury Department, Federal Maritime Commission, Department of Labor, and the Department of Justice. Additional executive outreach meetings are scheduled for spring 2004.

The ACE/ITDS initiative will integrate the requirements of federal agencies responsible for managing international trade and transportation processes. It will provide agencies with data and various capabilities to support their respective missions. Eventually, ACE/ITDS will facilitate integrated risk management for all modes of transportation for each import, export, and in-transit transaction.

ACE Accounts Continue to Grow

Approximately 100 importer accounts have been established and loaded into ACE. Starting with the introduction of periodic payment features this summer and continuing through the fall rollout of truck processing capabilities, the number of ACE accounts is expected to reach 1,100 by the end of 2004.



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